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OF

South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs

FISCAL YEAR 1971-72

Submitted by

Hoyt B. Hill, Jr., Director
S. C. Department of Veterans Affairs
1015 Main Street
Columbia, South Carolina
September 1, 1972

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

**South Carolina Department
of Veterans Affairs**

FISCAL YEAR 1971-72

Submitted by

**Hoyt B. Hill, Jr., Director
S. C. Department of Veterans Affairs
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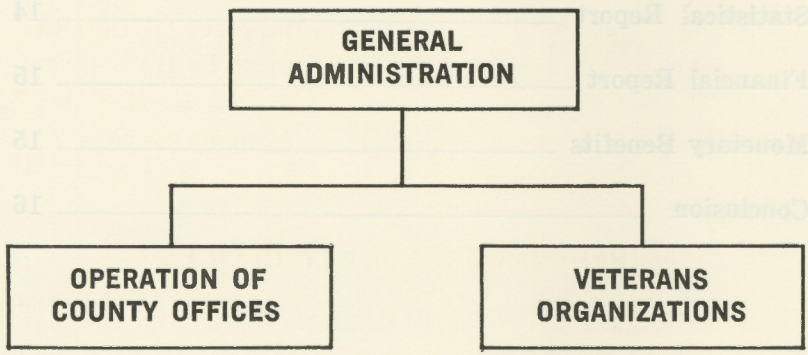
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DIRECTORY OF COUNTY OFFICES		COUNTY OFFICES	
Abbeville	Charles C. McLeod	Room 205 County Courthouse Abbeville, S. C. 29620	537-2005
Allen	Leslie J. Hockman	Room 18 County Courthouse P. O. Box 157 Allen, S. C. 29801	648-4011
Allendale	John H. Hockett	Memorial Building Allendale, S. C. 29810	534-2342
Anderson	Fred E. Winkler	1621 North Main Street Anderson, S. C. 29621	234-3901
Bamberg	B. Mearns Hiers	105 North Street P. O. Box 416 Bamberg, S. C. 29803	245-2494
Barnwell	W. M. Schneppert	Room 101 County Office Building P. O. Box 136 Barnwell, S. C. 29812	233-3676
Beaufort	C. B. Epps, Jr.	County Office Building P. O. Box 97 Beaufort, S. C. 29902	324-3730
Berkley	Joseph R. West	174 East Main Street Monks Corner, S. C. 29461	896-2122

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ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



DIRECTORY OF STATE OFFICE

Location: 1015 Main Street, Columbia, S. C. 29201

Telephone No.: 758-2607

DIRECTOR

Hoyt B. Hill, Jr.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Grady D. Majors

STAFF ASSISTANT

Beverley J. Shirley

CLAIMS REPRESENTATIVES

S. Ralph Ayers

Jane H. Livingston

W. Arthur Neal

David A. Osborn

Jack M. Tiller

SECRETARIES

Margaret G. Derrick

Erdene P. Haltiwanger

Karen K. Horton

Eugenia G. Watts

DIRECTORY OF COUNTY OFFICES

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Abbeville	Charlie C. Murdock	Room 205 County Courthouse Abbeville, S. C. 29620	459-2608
Aiken	Lucien J. Hockman	Room 18 County Courthouse P. O. Box 357 Aiken, S. C. 29801	648-4011
Allendale	John H. Hewlett	Memorial Building Allendale, S. C. 29810	584-2942
Anderson	Fred S. Winstead	1621 North Main Street Anderson, S. C. 29621	224-3901
Bamberg	B. Monroe Hiers	109 North Street P. O. Box 416 Bamberg, S. C. 29003	245-2494
Barnwell	W. M. Steinmeyer	Room 101 County Office Building P. O. Box 336 Barnwell, S. C. 29812	259-3676
Beaufort	C. B. Epps, Jr.	County Office Building P. O. Box 97 Beaufort, S. C. 29902	524-3730
Berkeley	Joseph R. West	334 East Main Street Moncks Corner, S. C. 29461	899-2222

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Calhoun	Eldred S. Robinson	Agriculture Building St. Matthews, S. C. 29135	874-3816
Charleston	Thomas R. Johnson, Sr.	Room 322 The Center Charleston, S. C. 29403	722-5111
Cherokee	Floyd A. Queen	County Courthouse Gaffney, S. C. 29340	489-5172
Chester	Fred H. Strickland	126 Main Street P. O. Box 547 Chester, S. C. 29706	385-6157
Chesterfield	W. Arthur Griggs	101 Park Drive Chesterfield, S. C. 29709	623-2482
Clarendon	Lawrence I. Gibbons	Room 203 County Courthouse Manning, S. C. 29102	435-2527
Colleton	G. Herman Kinard	County Courthouse P. O. Box 627 Walterboro, S. C. 29488	549-1412
Darlington	Clarence H. Jordan, Jr.	County Courthouse Darlington, S. C. 29532	393-1051
Dillon	Robert H. Lester	Agriculture Building Dillon, S. C. 29536	774-9681
Dorchester	George W. Thomas	County Courthouse P. O. Box 661 St. George, S. C. 29477	563-3481
Edgefield	Wilbur S. Crouch	County Courthouse P. O. Box 5 Edgefield, S. C. 29824	637-3224
Fairfield	Edwin L. Shull	County Courthouse P. O. Box 456 Winnsboro, S. C. 29180	635-4131
Florence	Donald W. Woodruff	County Courthouse P. O. Box 1412 Florence, S. C. 29501	665-3045
Georgetown	Ralph W. Hills	County Office Building P. O. Box 306 Georgetown, S. C. 29440	546-7734
Greenville	John W. Fortner	707 County Office Building 130 South Main Street Greenville, S. C. 29601	242-3910 Ext. 268
Greenwood	Thomas E. Fish	Room 108 County Courthouse P. O. Box 441 Greenwood, S. C. 29646	229-5500
Hampton	Perry L. Chisolm	Courthouse Office Building P. O. Box 476 Hampton, S. C. 29924	943-2258
Horry	A. David Altman	County Health Center P. O. Box 385 Conway, S. C. 29526	248-9021

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Jasper	J. E. Horton, Jr.	County Courthouse Ridgeland, S. C. 29936	726-8940
Kershaw	Harold R. Truesdale	Room 225 County Courthouse P. O. Box 691 Camden, S. C. 29020	432-4096
Lancaster	Ward M. Faulkenberry	County Office Building P. O. Box 282 Lancaster, S. C. 29720	283-2469
Laurens	Howard H. Watkins, Sr.	Courthouse Annex P. O. Box 193 Laurens, S. C. 29360	984-4041
Lee	John Z. King	68 North Main Street Williford Building P. O. Box 461 Bishopville, S. C. 29010	484-6622
Lexington	Robert S. Powell	Room 103 Community Building P. O. Box 811 Lexington, S. C. 29072	359-4225
McCormick	Tillman C. Faulkner, Jr.	County Office Building McCormick, S. C. 29835	465-4275
Marion	C. D. Evans	115 West Court Street Marion, S. C. 29571	423-1632
Marlboro	Frank S. Ward	County Courthouse P. O. Box 401 Bennettsville, S. C. 29512	479-2651
Newberry	Gerald C. O'Quinn	Room 11 County Courthouse P. O. Box 217 Newberry, S. C. 29108	276-3233
Oconee	Mrs. Betty C. Smith Acting	Room 102 County Courthouse Walhalla, S. C. 29691	638-2214
Orangeburg	George E. Hoover	County Courthouse P. O. Box 718 Orangeburg, S. C. 29115	534-6484
Pickens	C. Carl Pilgrim	County Courthouse P. O. Box 451 Pickens, S. C. 29671	878-6161
Richland	John E. Brewer	Room 285 2020 Hampton Street Columbia, S. C. 29204	779-4055
Saluda	Billy C. Coleman	101 West Church Street Saluda, S. C. 29138	445-2184
Spartanburg	M. Frank Edwards	Room 159 County Courthouse Spartanburg, S. C. 29301	585-4811 Ext. 266
Sumter	James W. Scarborough	County Courthouse Sumter, S. C. 29150	775-2346 Ext. 37

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Union	Charles V. Blackwood	County Courthouse Union, S. C. 29379	427-3462
Williamsburg	Cecil H. Robinson	Office #6 Courthouse Square Kingstree, S. C. 29556	354-6352
York	Earle B. Gregory	County Office Building P. O. Box 16 Rock Hill, S. C. 29730	327-2956

MISSION

The Department of Veterans Affairs was originally created in 1927, as the State Service Bureau, by an Act of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina for the purpose "of assisting all ex-servicemen, regardless of the wars in which their service may have been rendered, in filing, presenting and prosecuting to final determination all claims which they have for money compensation, hospitalization, training and insurance benefits under the terms of federal legislation relative thereto."

The original Act was amended in 1945 by providing for a County Service Officer (now County Veterans Affairs Officer) in each of the forty-six counties in the state and restating the purpose, as amended, "to insure a stabilization and coordination of the service work for and in behalf of the war veterans and ex-servicemen and women of South Carolina, in order that they may be guaranteed the maximum benefits granted by laws enacted by the National Congress."

These services are extended to eligible dependents, including parents, widows, children and orphans of war veterans and ex-servicemen and women.

There are 278,930 living veterans in South Carolina as of June 30, 1972, and as our veterans become older, more and more of them become eligible for increased service connected disability payments or non-service pension payments. Also, the death of a veteran usually results in a claim being filed by his survivor, or survivors. Our ranks are additionally being swelled by our newly discharged veterans and retirees of the Regular Service.

It is impossible for our claims personnel to know everything about all of the benefits that may be available to veterans, their dependents, beneficiaries, widows and orphans,

but we must be able to know where to find the answers. Periodic meetings sponsored by this Agency are held with our County Veterans Affairs Officers each year to keep them abreast of the changing laws and benefits available. These meetings are instructed by the personnel in this Agency and by technicians and officials from the Veterans Administration in Columbia and Washington.

The necessity for personal assistance to veterans in filing and pursuing claims and a continuing information program results from the legal principle that no veterans' benefits are awarded automatically—All Must Be Applied For. The Veterans Administration is not a "hand-out" agency as all claims allowed must be justified; hence, skill and knowledge in service work comes into being when we know what evidence is needed to bring about a favorable decision.

We believe that our record in serving South Carolina veterans, their dependents and survivors is equal to any in the United States. The Veterans Administration does have authority to resolve benefit of reasonable doubt, based on all available evidence, in adjudicating cases, and we are, therefore, able to have many "close" cases allowed on that basis.

FUNCTIONS

The primary function of this Department, and the majority of our time is spent, in working with and supervising our forty-six County Veterans Affairs Officers in helping them with individual cases in their respective counties.

Other major functions performed by the Department of Veterans Affairs in accordance with the law are as follows:

1. Assist veterans, their families and survivors in initiating, filing and prosecuting claims.
2. Represent veterans before the VA Rating Boards and the Board of Appeals.
3. Publish timely informational bulletins on technical rules and regulations relating to veterans' benefits.
4. Assist and cooperate with all veterans organizations in their work.
5. Conduct Veterans Affairs Officers Schools to instruct in veterans benefits.

6. Maintain complete files on all veterans whom we assist.
7. Assist similar agencies in other states in securing evidence needed in the development of claims.
8. Assist veterans insofar as possible in securing Social Security, Welfare, and related benefits.
9. Assist survivors and morticians in securing burial benefits.
10. Assist all public officials in aiding constituents on veterans affairs.
11. Assist legislators and others in appropriate veterans legislation.
12. Perform a humanitarian service in counseling disabled veterans, veterans' widows, dependent parents and orphans in complete realization of veterans benefits as they best apply in individual cases.
13. Assist veterans in filing applications for review of discharges and in obtaining disability retirement or an increase in disability retirement.
14. Assist in having veterans admitted to the VA Hospitals in Columbia, Charleston, Augusta and other adjacent areas.

A great amount of time is spent by our office personnel in reviewing records at the VA Regional Office, and that work must be done carefully and meticulously, since all of the facts must be known in each case that we handle if we are to expect to receive a favorable decision. We have hearings each day before the VA Rating Boards and much time is consumed in personal interviews, in counseling and in letter writing.

Claimants must be advised through their County Veterans Affairs Officers, or directly, of what can be done, if anything, and what evidence is necessary to establish a VA claim for monetary benefits. Such work is highly technical and a thorough knowledge of VA regulations and applicable legislation is absolutely essential.

In addition to representing claimants and supervising the work of forty-six County Veterans Affairs Officers in connection with VA compensation and pension claims, which is our principle work, we must have knowledge of the many

other facets of veterans benefits such as GI training, GI insurance, VA hospitalization, Civil Service Preference, military hospital treatment, PX privileges, the different types of military retirement pay, War Orphans training, outpatient treatment, reimbursement of unauthorized medical expenses, dental treatment, burial in national and VA cemeteries, and a knowledge of South Carolina State legislation as it affects veterans.

The demands for our services come not only from County Veterans Affairs Officers, but by request directly from veterans themselves throughout the state, their dependents and survivors, plus requests from elected public officials in behalf of their constituents.

We also find it necessary to deal constantly with other federal agencies, both locally and in Washington, and at other important government installations over the country. Many contacts by correspondence and telephone with other state agencies are made at frequent intervals. This activity involves a wide variety of subjects, but they are concerned with some problem of vital interest to the person we are trying to serve.

ACTIVITIES

COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICERS CONFERENCE

October 21, 1971, was the date of the annual conference on Income Questionnaires sponsored by this office for our County Veterans Affairs Officers and their staffs.

In addition to our county personnel, this meeting was attended by officials of the Columbia and Charleston VA Hospitals, the S. C. Department of Education, the Governor's Task Force on "Jobs for Veterans" and the Veterans Administration Regional Office.

One of the most time consuming, seasonal functions of this Department is assisting pensioners in filing income questionnaires which are required by the Veterans Administration each year. The laws and regulations of reporting income

for pension purposes are constantly changing thus a meeting such as this is an essential part of our work.

Officials of the Veterans Administration Regional Office here in Columbia were in charge of giving instructions for the completion of Income Questionnaires.

VETERANS OPPORTUNITY FAIR

The South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs and the Governor's Task Force for "Jobs for Veterans" co-sponsored a "Veterans Opportunity Fair" held at the S. C. National Guard Armory on March 24, 1972, between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.

Representatives of 24 State and Federal Agencies were on hand to offer assistance and/or information on the various benefits available to veterans, their dependents and survivors. The participating agencies were: Veterans Administration, Social Security Administration, U. S. Department of Labor, S. C. Employment Security Commission, U. S. Civil Service Commission, U. S. Army, U. S. Navy, U. S. Marine Corps, U. S. Air Force, U. S. Coast Guard, U. S. Army Reserve, S. C. Army National Guard, Columbia Urban League, Inc., National Alliance for Businessmen, Small Business Administration, Selective Service System, Housing & Urban Development, Internal Revenue Service, S. C. Tax Commission, S. C. Department of Education, Farmers Home Administration, American Red Cross, S. C. Task Force for "Jobs for Veterans" and S. C. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Fair was designed not only for veterans but also for persons contemplating entering one of the Armed Services or persons actually on active duty as well as for dependents and/or survivors of veterans.

This one-day, one-stop program was not designed just to provide information in regard to various benefits but to actually take action by filing claims, etc. right on the spot.

The Fair was well attended and well received by the veterans of this State. Other interested South Carolinians that stopped by to view the activities were: Senator Strom Thurmond; Congressman and Mrs. Wm. Jennings Bryan Dorn; Mr. Bernard B. Meng, III and Mrs. Martha Payne represent-

ing Senator Ernest F. Hollings; Mr. J. Dan Truett, Jr., Dept. Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Mr. Paul Greer, National Fourth Junior Vice Commander, Disabled American Veterans; Mr. Oral O. Cox, Dept. Commander, The American Legion, Department of South Carolina; Mr. Arnold C. Muir, National Executive Committeeman, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Department of South Carolina; and Mr. A. B. Fennell, Veterans Employment Representative, U. S. Department of Labor. Governor John C. West was out of the country on a trade mission and could not attend but he sent his best wishes for a successful Veterans Opportunity Fair.

NATIONAL POSTER CONTEST

In May of 1972, the Veterans Administration Department of Veterans Benefits in Washington sent out information on organizing a national poster contest for high school students around the theme "Hire the Veteran".

The primary goal of this contest is to stimulate concern for hiring of veterans.

The "National Poster Contest" in South Carolina is being sponsored jointly by the Veterans Administration Regional Office and the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs with the support of Governor John C. West, the veterans organizations and the American Red Cross.

The Veterans Administration Regional Office in Columbia sent information on the contest to all high school principals in the state and this Agency, through the assistance of the County Veterans Affairs Officers, was instrumental in obtaining the prize money for winners on the county level.

Judging on the county level is set for September 28, 1972, with prizes of a \$75 Savings Bond, \$50 Savings Bond and \$25 Savings Bond going to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners respectively.

Judging at the state level is scheduled for October 5 and presentation of a \$100 Savings Bond, \$75 Savings Bond, and \$50 Savings Bond to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will be made by Governor John C. West at ceremonies that are tentatively scheduled to be held in the Governor's Office on October 10, 1972.

The state first place winner's poster will be sent to Wash-

ington for judging on the national level where the prizes are a \$1,500 scholarship, \$1,000 scholarship and \$500 scholarship for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners respectively.

STATISTICAL REPORT

The following is a report of the number of cases and types of services rendered by the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs and the forty-six County Veterans Affairs Officers during FY 1971-72.

Contacts	307,773
Informational inquiry on veterans benefits in person and by telephone.	
Letters Written	167,980
Outgoing correspondence originated in behalf of the claimant in developing his/her claim.	
Compensation and Pension	15,314
A request for consideration for compensation or pension by a veteran or his survivors of any war or peacetime service.	
Compensation Claims Appealed	1,008
Express disagreement with VA rating decision and request for further review of claim.	
Appeal Hearings	300
A personal appearance before a VA rating board by the claimant accompanied by his veterans service representative to present evidence or argue in the interest of the claimant.	
Insurance	4,896
An application for insurance, conversion, reinstatement, waiver of premiums, total disability income and death proceeds.	
Hospitalization	12,130
A request for admission to a VA or state hospital, either as an emergency or a routine admission.	
Burial Expenses	3,553
A request for payment of VA burial allowance to funeral home or reimbursement to claimant.	
Educational Benefits	15,217

Application for education assistance for the veterans and/or the wives, widows and children of veterans.

Vocational Rehabilitation Training	610
Application for training, including counseling, for veterans with a service connected disability.	
Correction of Military Records and Discharge Change	1,290
Application for correction of military records and change in type of discharge received by veteran.	

FINANCIAL REPORT Fiscal Year 1971-72

Expenditures

Personal Services	\$100,063
Operating Expenses	
Travel	\$4,647
Telegraph and Telephone	3,015
Repairs	359
Office Supplies	4,859
Rents-State-Owned Real Property	3,852
Rents-Equipment	749
Contribution and Dues	100
Office Equipment	4,081
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	21,662
Operation of County Offices	306,904
Veterans Organizations	20,648
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TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$449,277

MONETARY BENEFITS

The following is a report of the monetary benefits received by the veterans and the dependent survivors of deceased veterans in the State of South Carolina for the fiscal year July 1, 1971 - June 30, 1972.

Compensation:

Living Veterans	\$ 30,951,793
Dependents of Deceased Veterans	11,112,853
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	\$ 42,064,646

Pension:

Living Veterans	\$ 20,797,288
Dependents of Deceased Veterans	16,481,936
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	\$ 37,279,224
Insurance and Indemnities	\$ 8,066,119
Burial Allowances	\$ 936,000
Educational Benefits	\$ 25,948,621
Auto Grants	\$ 98,180

Loans:

Direct	\$ 1,608,617
Guaranteed	55,848,226
Homes for Paraplegics	175,150
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	\$ 57,631,993
Medical Services and Administration Costs	\$ 22,518,606
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TOTAL:	\$194,543,389

CONCLUSION

The State of South Carolina has one of the best set-ups for serving veterans of any state in the nation, and our program has been copied by many other states. At this time, we have in our Agency more than 40,000 files on living and deceased veterans and those files represent a lot of hard work over the years by all who have been connected with this office. The number of veterans assisted by this Agency and their survivors are rapidly increasing as daily inquiries are received from our County Veterans Affairs Officers and others over the state regarding various claims and other benefits.

The South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs staff is the smallest of any similar agency in this part of the country, but the quality of work rendered is excellent. We have extremely capable and dedicated persons in the Department of Veterans Affairs that work untiringly and conscientiously in an effort to give the veterans of South Carolina, their dependents and survivors prompt and efficient service.